

# OCEAN RIVER ADVENTURES



## DISCOVERY ISLAND WILDLIFE WALK

***(3.5 hours) A spectacular, remote, walking adventure!***

Custom tours only with 4 guests minimum and 12 maximum.

Join us for a guided nature tour of Discovery Island Marine Provincial Park with an experienced naturalist guide, accessed in the comfort of our Discovery Island Shuttle Boat. Learn about the Pacific Northwest marine wildlife and interesting history, and walk through Discovery Island Marine Park's rich ecosystem. This tour is so unique being on one of the most pristine of any of the Islands in the Salish Sea. Enjoy a ride out on the purpose-built water taxi—the Discovery Shuttle. Everything is so easy and enjoyable. A trail system runs from the lighthouse on Sea Bird Point to the western shore of the park, where we can walk up Pandora Hill for sweeping views of the Olympic Mountains and the surrounding area. In the spring, a colourful array of wildflowers blooms in the woodlands and meadows. In response to the ongoing presence of a lone wolf on Discovery Island, BC Parks has installed informational signage throughout the park. At this time, the wolf appears healthy and is displaying characteristics consistent with that of a purely wild animal; this lone wolf appears to avoid all human contact. However, you may be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of this incredible animal. Discovery Island has an abundance of bird life, sea mammals, and other wildlife. It is truly a special place to experience, and we have managed to make a visit very accessible.

**Prerequisites:** None

### **What's Included**

- Boat ride to Discovery Island
- Naturalist Guided walking tour around Discovery Island
- Binoculars for your use aboard the Discovery Shuttle

### **Health Related:**

- Tour includes traveling in an open motorboat, disembarking via a ramp, walking on a pebble beach and well-groomed trails with very little inclination.

### **Itinerary**

- 10:15 Meet the guides at Kate's Cafe in the Oak Bay Beach Hotel
- 10:30 Board our Discovery Shuttle
- Crossing to Discovery Island - Stopping at locations along the way, we'll watch for activity in the seabird 'feeding frenzies' in the ecological reserve waters.

- Walking Excursion - Discovery Island's inviting forest, with tall west coast trees swaying overhead, surrounds us as we follow the trail to the historic lighthouse. Majestic views of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the San Juan Islands present excellent photo opportunities.
- Upon returning from our walk, we will be met by the Discovery Shuttle to board and then to cross back to Oak Bay. We continue our shallow water explorations through the Chain Islands on the return voyage.
- 2:00 pm: End of tour and arrival back at Oak Bay Beach Hotel

## **Weather**

Weather in southern Vancouver Island is classified as sub-Mediterranean, and this area boasts the mildest climate in Canada. This means our weather is warm, but not too warm, and surprisingly dry. In spring and fall, we often get a mix of sun and cloud—certainly reasonable weather for sea kayaking, as your spraydeck covers the bottom part of your body and can keep it dry even during some rain. Combine this with a light raincoat and hat and you should be comfortable. If you are concerned about being outdoors in cooler weather with the possibility of rain, consider registering in a program that takes place during the summer, rather than the spring or fall. Summer is comfortable paddling weather, with temperatures from 18° to 32°C (65° to 90°F). The average monthly rainfall in summer is less than 2.5 cm (1"). Actually, this particular region is in a rain shadow. However, while this region is in a rain shadow, we're very close to the rainforest, which dominates the northern Pacific coast. This means that neighbouring areas experience plenty of rain. As such, you must be prepared for the possibility of rain by bringing adequate clothing. Usually, rain doesn't last very long. We take this all in stride in the great outdoors! Programs run rain or shine.

## **Equipment List**

### What You Provide for Your Program

Please read the following equipment list carefully, as it indicates what you will need to bring with you on the tour. Cotton keeps you cold when it's wet, and takes a long time to dry. If possible, bring clothing designed for outdoor wear and made from Merino (wool), silk, or synthetic materials, such as Capilene™, polyester, polypropylene, or nylon.

Ocean River Sports stocks many of the items listed below. If you need advice or would like to purchase gear, check out our website at [www.oceanriver.com](http://www.oceanriver.com) or call us!

- Comfortable walking footwear
- Eyeglass retainer strap if you wear glasses
- Sunglasses, sunscreen
- A broad-brimmed sun/rain hat
- Clothing like you might wear for a short hike (dress in appropriate layers depending, on the weather). Bring a light rain jacket on days when there is a chance of rain.
- Water and snack (optional)
- A camera (optional)

## **Preparing for Your Program**

Kayaking requires some upper body strength and endurance. If you are lacking this, it is rarely a problem as we don't paddle huge distances, and usually folks get by quite well with only occasional minor muscle aches. However, if you feel you could use some upper body conditioning before your

trip, exercising with light weights can be quite helpful. Concentrate mainly on shoulder strengthening exercises, focusing on endurance rather than strength.

### **Gratuities**

Please let our guide staff know if they have done a good job—tips are accepted and appreciated.

### **How to Register**

How to register – you can call us at 250 381-4233 (out of town 1-800-909 4233)

Advance booking is required to confirm your reservation. (VISA – MASTERCARD – CASH)

- Check in 15 minutes prior to your departure.
- A list of what you will need to bring is part of the attached Tour Itinerary document
- 24 Hour Cancellation Policy, No-Shows will be charged 100% of the fare.
- Ocean River Adventures reserves the right to alter departure times, cancel any trip due to inclement weather conditions, or unforeseen circumstances, without prior notice and without liability thereto.
- All tours depart rain or shine (rain jackets are available).
- We do ask for a local phone number either your accommodation or a cell number just in case we need to reach you prior to the tour.
- Everyone will be required to sign a Waiver when checking in.

### **Contact Us**

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